

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-21 are presently active; Claims 1-3 having been previously canceled without prejudice; and Claims 4, 6, and 9 have been presently amended to set forth features shown in Applicants' Figures 3 and 5. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 4, 6-8, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arami et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,904,872) in view of Toya et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,407,371). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arami et al and Toya et al and further in view of Goela et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,612,132). Claims 9-13, 19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arami et al in view of Saito et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,369,361). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al in view of Arami et al. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arami et al and Toya et al and further in view of Takahashi et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,254,687). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arami et al and Toya et al and further in view of Tay et al (U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0094446). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al and Arami et al and further in view of Tay et al.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of Examiner Kackar to conduct an interview for this case on September 25, 2008, during which time the issues in the outstanding final Office Action were discussed as substantially summarized hereinafter.

Based on the discussions with Examiner Kackar on September 25, 2008, the features of Applicants' Figure 3 have been more positively set forth in independent Claims 4 and 6.

In particular, similar to that discussed during the interview, Claim 4 recites:

A mounting table, comprising:
a heating unit including a reflector plate made of an opaque quartz, and
a quartz tube welded to a surface of the reflector plate; and
a mounting table cover member installed *to cover the reflector plate*, a
target object being mounted thereon, wherein the mounting table cover
member is made of a light absorbing material, and
a carbon wire which generates heat when a current is applied thereto *is
disposed between the reflector plate and the mounting table cover member*.

As noted in the final Office Action, Arami et al do not teach a quartz tube welded to a surface of the reflector plate. See Office Action, page 3, lines 12-13. Moreover, as discussed during the interview, any welding of the quartz parts in Toya et al is directed to the disposal of heating filament wires in a quartz encapsulation. There is no suggestion in Toya et al of the quartz structures therein being welded to any external structure.

M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 requires that all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of the claim against the prior art. M.P.E.P. § 2123 I states that a reference may be relied on for all it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art, including non-preferred embodiments.

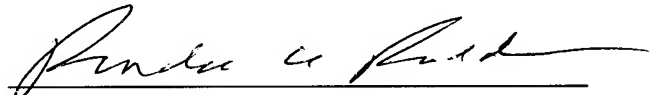
Thus, when the elements of Claim 4 are considered as a whole, a combination of Arami et al and Toya et al would not produce a quartz tube welded to a surface of the reflector plate which has a carbon wire filament disposed thereon (between the reflector plate and the mounting table cover member, as in independent Claims 4 and 6, or on a side of the reflector plate toward a position for the target object, as in independent Claim 9).

Hence, independent Claims 4, 6, and 9 (and the claims dependent therefrom) patentably define over Arami et al and Toya et al.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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